

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 09546 250953Z

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ACTION M-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 SS-15 SCA-01 VOE-00 A-01 PER-05

ABF-01 /038 W

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R 250905Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5628

UNCLAS TOKYO 9546

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CGEN

SUBJECT: SURVEY TEAM TO STUDY NONIMMIGRANT VISA WORKLOAD PROBLEMS

REF: STATE 143481 AND EMBASSY'S 8869

1. EMBASSY WELCOMES SURVEY TEAM'S VISIT AND HAS RESERVED THREE SINGLE ROOMS WITH BATH FOR AUGUST 8 THROUGH 11 AT HOTEL OKURA NEAR CHANCERY. CONUL GENERAL AT KOBE PLANS TO VISIT EMBASSY DURING TEAM'S STAY HERE.

2. ON RECOMMENDATION OF INSPECTOR HUSSMAN EMBASSY VISA BRANCH CHANGED PUBLIC HOLYU CLOSING NOW AT 13:30. THIS HAS PROVEN VERY HELPFUL, ENSURING MORE EFFICIENT USE OF PERSONNEL DURING AFTERNOON. SIMILAR CHANGE OF HOURS MIGHT WELL BE ADVISABLE FOR MANY POSTS NOT YET ON SUCH SCHEDULE.

3. HOWEVER ISSUANCE CONTINUES TO INCREASE ABOUT 40 PERCENT ANNUALLY IN JAPAN; USTS AND EMBASSY PREDICT THAT WILL CONTINUE (CURRENT NINTH TOTAL EXPECTED TO BE 50 PERCENT ABOVE LAST JULY). IN VIEW OF SUCH SHARP RATE OF INCREASE, THE EXTREMELY LOW RATE OF PROBLEM CASES AND THE EXCEPTIONALLY TRUSTWORTHY LOCAL STAFF, EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT UNPRECEDENTED SPECIAL MEASURES FOR JAPAN VISA OPERATION WOULD BE JUSTIFIED. ONE PROPOSAL, WELL KNOWN TO VISA OFFICE BUT TO DATE NOT ACCEPTABLE TO AGENCIES CONCERNED, WOULD BE THE AUTHORIZATION OF MACHINE FASCIMILE SIGNATURE, WHICH WOULD ENABLE OFFICERS TO UTILIZE THEIR TIME MUCH MORE ADVANTAGEOUSLY AND WOULD VERY LIKELY IMPROVE RATHER THAN JEOPARDIZE VISA SECURITY.

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4. WE ARE REQUESTING ADDITIONAL VISA MACHINES AND WILL NO DOUBT  
CONTINUE TO DO SO. DUE TO FREQUENCY OF REPAIRS AND ACTUAL BREAKDOWNS  
IT IS VITAL TO HAVE SPREA MACHINES ON HAND, TO PRECLUDE ANY SLOWDOWN  
IN PRODUCTION FOR LACK OF PROPERLY FUNCTIONING EQUIPMENT.

5. THE IMPELEMENTATION OF THE INSPECTORS' RECOMMENDATION TO CLOSE  
HOKOHAMA OFFICE WOULD ADD TWO EXPERIENCED LOCAL EMPLOYEES TO CONSULAR  
SECTION AND OBTAIN NECESSITY OF CONSULAR OFFICER TRAV  
ING THERE  
THREE MORNINGS EACH WEEK.

6. EMBASSY'S REFTEL REQUESTED ONE ADDITIONAL OFFICER AND TWO LOCAL  
POSITIONS. THROUGH ENTIRE CONSULAR SECTION SHORT OF SPACE, WE  
CAN UTILIZE SUCH STAFF INCREASES IF AUTHORIZED. COMPLETION OF NEW  
EMBASSY WILL INEVITABLYIMPROVE OUR PRODUCTIVITY TO SOME EXTENT.

7. PURCHASE OF DIEBOLD OR SIMILAR ROTARY FILES WOULD DOUBTLESS BE  
SOMETHING OF A TIME-SAVER.  
SHOESMITH

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NNN

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